

## Adventists . . .

(Continued from A-1)

Church has been deeply troubled by the implications of conflict of interest.

Wilson made a lengthy report of church ties to Davenport and said he hoped he could restore church credibility. His remarks came at the Loma Linda University Church, where Davenport is reportedly a member.

Wilson said the FBI probe — at the apparent behest of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Internal Revenue Service and other federal agencies — seems focused on charges of misrepresentation and violations of usury laws.

Of the church's own probe, Wilson reported that about 50 top church officers will be publicly disciplined, perhaps within six weeks. And some officers, whose actions were so "reprehensible," will be fired and their ministerial credentials withdrawn.

"It's my hope that by the first of April this will be pretty well put to bed except for the haunting memory," said Wilson, president of the General Conference, the church's ruling body.

According to Wilson, the church investigation indicates many officers failed to carry out their fiduciary responsibility, some were "totally derelict" and others took advantage of their positions.

He said some officers violated church conflict-of-interest guidelines by accepting finder fees from Davenport while investing hundreds of thousands of dollars from denominational trust funds.

And, said Wilson, some officers personally invested with Davenport and received "intoxicating" returns of from 20 to 80 percent, in apparent violation of usury laws.

Wilson's disclosures echoed findings reported by The Sun early last summer.

"This has been a heartache for many of us," said Wilson, addressing a standing-room-only crowd of more than 2,500 people.

He said the investment scandal has brought the integrity of the church, and the confidence and trust of the

church leadership under widespread attack.

Because of the depth of the crisis, he pledged to "clean up this matter to the best of my ability." An audible chorus of "amen" followed Wilson's remarks.

Some in the church seemed stunned by Wilson's revelations. When he said 50 members of the church hierarchy would be publicly disciplined, there was a gasp from the audience.

Later, several church members noted that many in attendance Saturday came from out of town and were not aware of Wilson's recent statements. On Tuesday, Wilson had issued a statement announcing that about 95 officials would be disciplined.

But his statement Saturday was the first indication that 50 ministers had committed offenses serious enough for public discipline — an unprecedented rebuke among the Adventists.

He said that he and another top church officer will interview all 95 officials, to give them an opportunity to appeal. He added, "There may be a few modifications, but that's not likely. There's not much chance of error."

Wilson detailed in an hour-long statement, the findings of church involvement with Davenport. Since the mid-1960s, said Wilson, Davenport has had financial dealings with church organizations. And for almost as long, the General Conference has warned against the investments.

"Perhaps we didn't force the issue as we might have," said Wilson.

"But we (the General Conference) don't have line authority."

He concluded his remarks by stressing the importance of the Adventist constituency in insisting that church leaders follow their own church policy.

His candor apparently surprised skeptics among the Adventists. The meeting was billed as a question-and-answer session. But after Wilson's lengthy opening remarks, few questions were asked.

Pastor Louis Vendon seemed to reflect the sentiment of many of the Adventist when told Wilson that he was very appreciative of Wilson's "forthrightness."

## Farther . . .

(Continued from A-1)

over teaching high-school students to "se habla Espanol."

The motivation to learn that is shown by his adult students is another refreshing change, he said.

Taylor did not leave public teaching, however, because of the attitudes of his students, although that was one of the parts of teaching he "found to be very discouraging."

"The one piece I miss the most is the kid back in the classroom," he said.

Taylor said he left teaching "... for me, to better by own life — to avoid the burnout and perhaps, by doing that, I've contributed to education."

The slow road to upper management with the public schools was one of the frustrations he felt.

"I believe whether you're in a

school district, or working for Flying Tigers — after a seven- or eight- or nine-year period where you haven't seen too much promotion or too much growth... anyone would get restless."

Paying teachers more money is not the complete answer to teacher burnout, Taylor said. "Teachers have always taught for very little, but now they don't enjoy teaching that much anymore and the pay hasn't changed."

Until parents give their children a sense of their own responsibility in receiving a good education, and unless communities are willing to support the schools, Taylor doesn't see society making the changes it will take to keep qualified teachers.

"I almost feel as if mine (leaving) was a cop out," he said. "I just hold them in very high esteem. My heart goes out to them because the majority of them are dedicated. I admire the fortitude it takes every morning to get up there and face that classroom."

## Teachers . . .

(Continued from A-5)

to an awareness that this is an exciting time to be in mathematics," he said.

Math teachers will accept the low pay and even the hard working conditions in today's classroom if "as a society we give teachers recognition that their doing a valuable thing," Stein said. "If I have a job that has prestige and respect, I might accept low funds."

Stein believes the United States doesn't have long to change its attitude about education.

"We've been so damn big and rich that we've been able to coast. We've

got to wake up, because the rest of the world is out there hustling."

The enthusiasm for teaching may be hard to generate, however.

The Baders and Eagans of the classroom certainly are not encouraging their college-age children or their students to follow in their footsteps.

"Teaching as a profession has deteriorated since I started," Eagan said. "The reason that I'm still here is because after 22 years I don't want to start over."

"We like what we do," Bader said, "but we doubt that we'd do it again."

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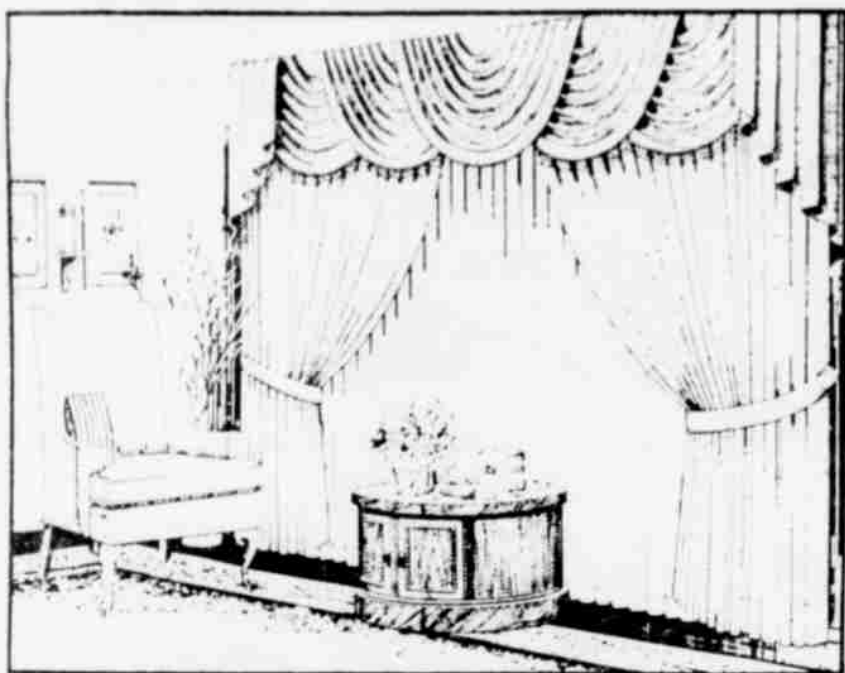
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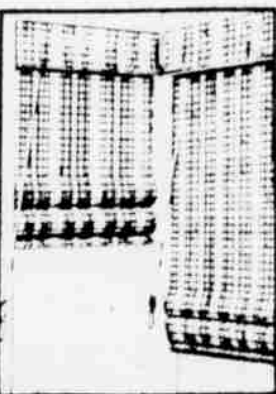


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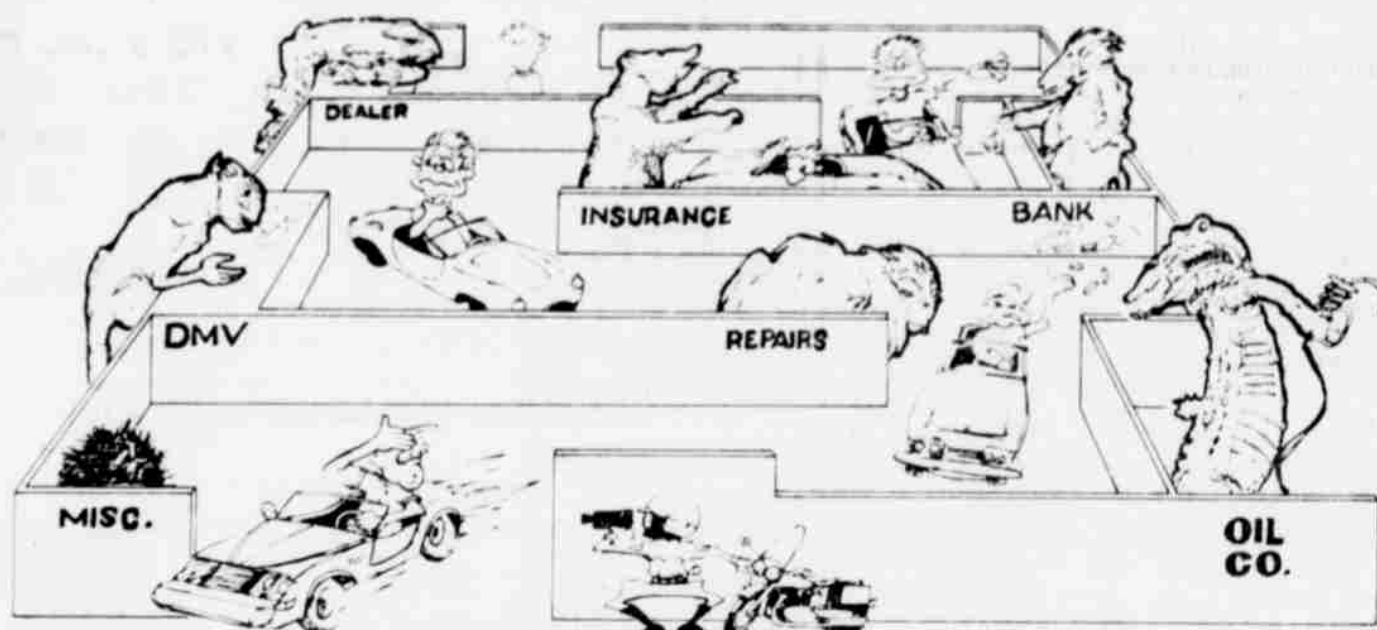
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